

# TOXIC CHEMICAL TRANSFERS

## At a Glance

Toxic chemicals transferred offsite  
1991. . . 83.2 million lbs.  
1997. . . 67.6 million lbs.  
1999. . . 94.4 million lbs.

Principal methods of disposal (million pounds)  
recycling . . . . . 55.515  
energy recovery 22.434  
treatment. . . . . 16.455

## Indicator 3. Toxic Chemical Transfers

**Background** About 73 percent (519.6 million tons) of the 714.7 million pounds of toxic chemicals generated in Kentucky during 1999 were treated at the site of production, while 14 percent (100.8 million pounds) were released to the environment. The remaining 13 percent (94.4 million pounds) were transferred offsite for treatment or disposal. Chemicals can be transferred offsite for recycling; energy recovery; treatment (includes neutralization, incineration, biological and physical separation); to a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant for treatment; or to a landfill for disposal.

**Goal** To promote a hierarchy of waste management priorities with source reduction the preferred option as specified in the federal Pollution Prevention Act of 1990. If a waste cannot be eliminated outright, then the second-best waste management option is to recycle, followed by treatment and lastly disposal.

**Progress** Nationwide, during 1999, 3.6 billion pounds of toxics were transferred offsite for disposal. In Kentucky, 263 facilities reported transferring 94.4 million pounds of toxic pollutants off site. Kentucky ranked eighth in the nation in the amount of toxic chemicals transferred offsite.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Kentucky received 13.9 million pounds of toxic waste from other states for treatment.<sup>2</sup>

More than half (59 percent or 55 million pounds), of the toxic chemicals transferred offsite by Kentucky facilities were recycled in 1999. Another 24 percent (22.4 million pounds) were recovered for energy, and 17 percent (16.4 million pounds) were treated to render them nontoxic.

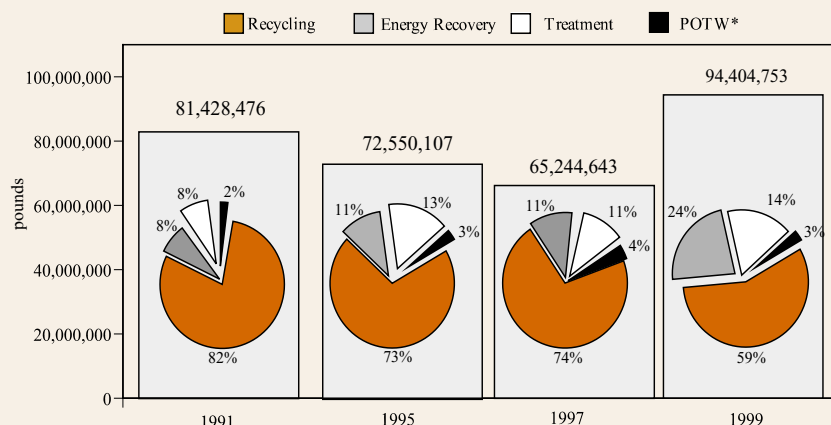
The notion of reducing or preventing the generation of toxic pollutants has been promoted in the state by the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center. The center is based at the University of Louisville. The center provides free assistance to companies to help reduce and prevent waste. To date, the center has trained 6,200 people during 68 seminars and performed 29 site assessments to assist companies reduce and prevent waste.

### Footnotes

1. TRI Explorer; Web site - <http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/geography.htm>.

2. Toxic Release Inventory 1999 Public Data Report, page 3-20, U.S. EPA, 2001.

## Measure 1. Kentucky Generated TRI Chemicals Transferred Off-Site



## Measures - notes and sources

**Measure 1.** Transfers offsite for recycling, energy recovery, treatment and disposal were not tracked until 1991. U.S. EPA moved transfers offsite for disposal into the release category. 1996 was the first year that land disposal offsite was tracked as a release. \*\*POTW - Publicly-Owned Treatment Works. Source: Toxics Release Inventory Reports.